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FORTNIGHTLY REPORT ON PAKISTAN

August 16-31, 2016

This report is based on the reading of Pakistani media during the last two weeks.

India-Pakistan

The tension between India and Pakistan is an all-time high after Prime Narendra Modi referred to PoK, and Balochistan during his Independence Day speech. Pakistan not only got rattled with his statement but blamed India for trying to divert the attention from the Kashmir on the one hand, and accused India of meddling in the internal affairs of Pakistan on the other. Following this, Nawaz Sharif appointed MNAs as his special envoys and sent them to important capitals to raise the Kashmir issue and highlight “Indian atrocities” in Kashmir. Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri too has decided to send a delegation of provincial lawmakers to friendly countries to raise the issue of Indian involvement in Balochistan. This is nothing new. Pakistan first creates an unwanted situation in Kashmir through its “strategic assets” and then goes on to take advantage of this development.

Pakistan’s civil and military leadership more often blame RAW for most of the terrorist attacks in their country. They did not miss the chance when terrorists attacked a hospital in Quetta resulting in about 70 deaths. However, within a month their own lawmakers held Pakistani intelligence agencies and security establishment responsible. Pakistani Senators argued that the attack of that kind took place because the intelligence agencies failed to do their job effectively and efficiently. They also demanded a thorough investigation so that the responsibility could be fixed. They vehemently criticized the government for not implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) properly. PkMAP Senator Usman Kakar even went to the extent of holding “military establishment” responsible for the current security situation in the country. He argued that Pakistan’s

intelligence agencies were busy interfering in Afghanistan and important foreign policy decisions were being taken outside the parliament—a clear reference to Pakistan Army controlling the foreign policy. He even questioned the tall claims made under “Zarb-e-Azb” and argued that military only provided figures of the terrorist but no names that could be identified.

Usman Kakar of the PkMAP delivered the harshest speech of the day, holding the “military establishment” responsible for the current security situation in the country. He alleged that intelligence agencies were still interfering in Afghanistan’s affairs and regretted that important decisions on foreign policy issues were being made outside the parliament. Mr Kakar also questioned claims about the success of the Operation Zarb-i-Azb. “You only provide us figures. At least tell us the names of those (terrorists) killed in the operation,” he said, adding that there were several intelligence agencies in the country and all of them had failed. Referring to the treason charge against his party’s leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai over his hard-hitting speech on the same issue in the National Assembly, the PkMAP senator lamented those who had held the Constitution in abeyance were called “Mard-i-Momin” but those struggling to uphold it were being dubbed “traitors.” “If we are called traitors for defending the Constitution, we are proud of being called traitors,” he said and asked the military and the intelligence agencies to stay away from politics. Parliamentary leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Tahir Mashhadi said the Quetta attack was the result of failure of the federal and provincial governments. “It is the failure of intelligence agencies but no one is ready to take responsibility,” he said. He said members of banned organisations were openly taking out rallies carrying photographs of generals but no one was taking action against them. He

alleged that terrorists had their hideouts in Punjab but no operation was being carried out against them in the province.

Pakistan developing maritime doctrine, The Dawn, September 6

Pakistan is developing its maritime doctrine in response to 'disturbing developments' in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to protect its maritime interests and respond to conventional and sub-conventional threats emerging there. The draft doctrine is being reviewed at different levels in the navy and government ahead of adoption. Senior Research Fellow of Pakistan Navy War College and author of the doctrine retired Commander Muhammad Azam Khan, speaking at the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS), said the doctrine aimed at developing coherence and uniformity of thought and action within Pakistan Navy and promoting cooperation with Army, Air Force, allied navies and coalition partners. He said the doctrine would further give contextual clarity to all stakeholders and observers of maritime developments in Pakistan. Cdr Khan gave an overview of the doctrine and said its formulation had been necessitated by the evolving threat matrix and maritime environment in the IOR. "With the regional environment of IOR being marred by uncertainty and political instability, Pakistan has to maintain its maritime security, be cognisant of its security interests and put forth its doctrinal assumptions based on concepts governing application of maritime forces, the command and control structures and a carefully crafted role for its naval forces," he said.

Baloch insurgency brought under control: Army, The Nation, September 7

Southern Command Corps Commander Lt-Gen Ammer Riaz has categorically stated that insurgency in Balochistan has been brought under control and only isolated activity is reported from remote towns along Pak-Afghan border. "What is worrying is that foreign enemy agents have become more active due to material and diplomatic support being provided to them from across the Eastern and Western borders," he added. Talking to a group of senior journalists and anchorpersons of television channels at his residence where he hosted a dinner in their honour, he said CPEC project that has rightly been termed a game changer for Pakistan was not being digested by some foreign powers, including India. "Urging Chinese leaders to respect Indian inspirations regarding CPEC, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vomited venom against Pakistan. Modi was snubbed by the Chinese leadership," he said. The corps commander said the people of Balochistan were as patriotic as any other Pakistani, adding they were only demanding fundamental rights like education, health and drinking water. He said Pakistani flags were flying on the rooftops of universities, colleges, schools and residential localities across nook and corner of the province. This was not the situation a couple of years back and that was a clear indicator that the population of the province was filled with national aspirations. Previously, he said, the price of flying Pakistani flag was a bullet.

India shells Pak villages along LoC, The Nation, September 7

Pakistani troops and Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) exchanged fire across the Line of Control (LoC) on Pakistan Defence Day, Inter-Services Public Relations said yesterday. The ISPR said Indian troops resorted to unprovoked firing in the Nezapir sector around midnight on Monday. Firing continued until 10am on Tuesday morning, the statement said. No casualties have been reported so far on either side of the working boundary. Pakistani troops gave a befitting

response to the BSF's unprovoked firing, the ISPR said. Officials said that a man was injured and five buildings including a high school were damaged when Indian troops resorted to unprovoked shelling from across the Line of Control on various forward villages in Nezapir sector in Haveili district of AJK. India targeted forward Kairni and Madaar villages in Nezapir sector of Poonch Division when the people of Jammu & Kashmir at both sides of the Line of Control were preparing to observe the Defense Day of Pakistan with enthusiasm and devotion.

Foreign Secretary signals cooperative stance, Daily Times, September 9

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry strategically proposed partnership with India for nuclear safety and security. This took place during his address at the inaugural session of a conference, 'Assessing South Asia's Nuclear Security', a session jointly organised by the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS) and the Atlantic Council, an American think tank. Pakistan and India currently hold an agreement on nuclear accidents and an expert group on nuclear confidence building measures, though it is currently dormant because of freeze in ties. Mr Chaudhry said that the two countries could share best practices, experience and expertise regarding nuclear technology. The proposal comes from the realisation that despite problems in their relationship, both Pakistan and India are responsible for maintaining stability in the South Asian region. India is one of the few nuclear armed countries without an independent nuclear regulator. Suggesting cooperation on development of an independent regulatory framework, Mr Chaudhry said Pakistan had extensive experience in maintaining an independent nuclear regulatory body. The latest proposal comes after Pakistan last month proposed a bilateral moratorium on testing of nuclear weapons.

Sattar taunts PTI over 'Jalsi' in Karachi, The Nation, September 7

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan leader Farooq Sattar has taunted the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) over the limited turnout for his rally held in Karachi on Tuesday. Speaking to supporters here, Sattar said the PTI jalsa - rally - at Nishter Park turned out to be a 'jalsi', while participation by the masses at the MQM public meeting in large numbers surprised many. He said a few people, after August 22, had perceived that MQM's politics had come to an end, but the enthusiasm of party workers helped this ship sail once again. The MQM has been under fire following an inflammatory speech by its founder on August 22 that led to violence in Karachi. At least one man was killed and eight wounded after charged workers attacked media outlets and public property after allegedly being given a go-ahead by the party supremo.

Pakistan termed critical to US interests, The Dawn, September 6

Pakistan remains critical to US counterterrorism efforts, nuclear nonproliferation, regional stability, the peace process in Afghanistan, and regional economic integration and development, argues the Obama administration while explaining why Washington needs to stay engaged with Islamabad. "The United States therefore has a deep interest in a stable, democratic and prosperous Pakistan, as well as long-term constructive bilateral cooperation," says an official US document on the need for continuing aid to Pakistan in the fiscal year 2017. The document, posted recently on a US government website, explains why during his visit to India last week Secretary of State John Kerry rejected the suggestion, made at media briefings and public engagements, that Washington needed to

abandon Pakistan as it was not a trustworthy ally. In his first comment, however, Secretary Kerry advised Pakistan not to make distinctions between “good terrorists” and “bad terrorists”, though in a later statement he said that Pakistan itself had been a victim of terrorism and lost over 50,000 people to violent acts. He also urged other nations to help Pakistan combat terrorists.

China to support energy, infrastructure projects, The Nation, September 7
China yesterday came up with a fresh offer to support energy and infrastructure projects in Sindh province as the Asian giant continues to stand with Pakistan amid uneasy ties with the United States – the global superpower. Chinese authorities in the industrial Hubai province pledged to support the Sindh government’s proposals to settle the energy crises and improve the infrastructure. Member standing committee of the Communist Party of China Yu Shaoliang told a delegation of the Pakistan People’s Party led by Senator Sherry Rehman here that the ‘iron brother’ will be ready to extend support in energy, construction and shipping sectors. Lately, Pakistan has signed several agreements with China to further boost the bilateral ties between the two countries in various fields, including energy and basic infrastructure sectors. China intends to invest more than \$46 billion in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan till 2017-18 of which \$15 billion investment is anticipated in infrastructure projects only. These include Lahore-Karachi Motorway, Karakorum Highway and expanding the capacity of Gwadar Port. In the transportation sector, the railway line from Karachi to Peshawar would be modernized and upgraded. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Secretariat was inaugurated in Islamabad on August 27, 2013. CPEC is likely to get funding from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Nawaz inaugurates CPEC projects in Gwadar, The Dawn, September 1

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated five developmental projects at Gwadar in Balochistan. "I agree with my minister Mir Hasil Bizenjo when he says that Gwadar is Balochistan and Balochistan is Gwadar. Gwadar is Pakistan and Pakistan is Gwadar," PM Nawaz said while addressing a ceremony after unveiling the developmental projects. The development projects include a free trade zone, business complex of Gwadar Port Authority, Pak-China Government Primary School Faqir Colony, Sawar and Shadikor dams and Gwadar University, according to Radio Pakistan.

Mengal likens CPEC to Kalabagh dam, The Dawn, September 5

Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) president Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will turn out to be another Kalabagh dam because of wrong strategy of the government. He said that the CPEC would deprive smaller provinces of their rights, adding that development based on dishonesty would not be acceptable to the people of Balochistan. He was speaking at a public meeting held in memory of the victims of Aug 8 Quetta carnage in the Baba-i-Balochistan Football Stadium on Saturday (September 3). Mr Mengal said that the CPEC project was only for Punjab. "The rulers are serving the interest of Punjab and they have no interest in the development of Balochistan." Out of \$46 billion to be spent on the project, even \$1bn would not be spent on Balochistan, he claimed. "This development can be for Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo and me but it will not benefit people of Balochistan." [...] "If foreign agencies were involved in the Quetta carnage, who was behind the mass graves unearthed in Tutak? Who was involved in enforced disappearances of the youth whose bodies were recovered from the mass graves?"

Why has the report about the mass graves not been made public?" The BNP-M leader alleged that Baloch people were being portrayed as traitors and terrorists in the textbooks of Punjab. "We accept this allegation but want to know the names of those traitors who were responsible for the creation of Bangladesh," he added. [...]BNP-M secretary general Dr Jahanzeb Jamaldini said that the land of Jhalawan had rendered great sacrifices for the motherland but rulers wanted it to offer more scarifies. "We have received around 3,000 bodies of our youths," he said. "The youth of Balochistan do not want to die and all they want is to enjoy life like their counterparts in Punjab," he added. He said why the rulers could not open talks with Baloch people who were demanding their legitimate rights and their control over their resources. "No one can be allowed to loot and plunder the resources of Balochistan which belong to its people," Mr Jamaldini said. Former senator Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani alleged that that state institutions were involved in sectarian and targeted killings in the province.
